

## Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 NSC-05 ( ISO ) W

----- 106968

R 091200Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9112  
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7548

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN  
SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER

1. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES  
SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER CONCERNING THE HARCOS/FLETCHER  
CASE TO P.N. CHAR, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER,  
ON JUNE 5.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR PROFESSOR DHAR: MAY I CALL YOUR  
ATTENTION AGAIN TO A PROBLEM WHICH HAS PERSISTENTLY TROUBLED  
THOSE OF US DEALING WITH INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE  
PAST TWO YEARS, NAMELY, THE CASE OF RICHARD HARCOS AND  
ANTHONY FLETCHER. I KNOW THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE  
BACKGROUND OF THESE TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WERE ARRESTED  
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL AUTHORITIES ON APRIL 26,  
1973, AND SUBSEQUENTLY CHARGED WITH VIOLATIONS OF THE OFFICIAL  
SECRETS ACT. THEY HAVE BEEN HELD IN DETENTION IN CALCUTTA  
EVER SINCE.

3. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING HERE IN NEW DELHI THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DOES NOT IN FACT CONSIDER THAT THE CASE  
SHOULD BE HANDLED AS AN "OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT" PROBLEM BUT  
COULD WELL BE DISPOSED OF PROMPTLY ON LESSER CHARGES.  
UNFORTUNATELY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A RESOLUTION OF THE MATTER ON  
THIS BASIS DO NOT THUS FAR SEEM TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. IN  
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FACT WE HAVE RECENTLY LEARNED FROM OUR CONSULATE GENERAL IN

CALCUTTA THAT THE PROSECUTION PLANS TO RESUME ITS OFTEN-  
DELAYED PROCEEDING UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT ON JUNE 17.  
I HOPE YOU MIGHT PERSONALLY REVIEW THE CASE AGAIN AT THIS  
TIME BECAUSE WE HAVE ALSO LEARNED THAT HARCOS AND FLETCHER  
ARE PLANNING TO EMBARK ON A HUNGER STRIKE IN PROTEST  
AGAINST THE LACK OF MOVEMENT IN THE CASE FOR THE PAST EIGHT  
MONTHS. THE TWO AMERICANS EARLIER UNDERTOOK A 110-DAY HUNGER  
STRIKE WHICH NOT ONLY ENDANGERED THEIR LIVES BUT ALSO GENERATED  
CONSIDERABLE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN THE UNITED STATES.  
WITH THE CASE IN ITS THIRD YEAR AND THE TWO AMERICANS UNDER  
DETENTION THIS ENTIRE TIME, FURTHER PUBLICITY CANNOT BUT BE  
ADVERSE.

4. AS OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS MOVE TOWARDS AN IMPROVED RELATION-  
SHIP ON MANY PLANES, A PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THIS TROUBLESOME  
MATTER SEEMS EXPECIALLY APPROPRIATE. I APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS  
IN THIS CASE IN THE PAST AND AM SURE YOU SHARE WITH ME THE  
HOPE THAT THE LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED  
CAN BE QUICKLY RESOLVED, THE CASE COMPLETED, AND  
THE TWO AMERICANS ENABLED TO DEPART INDIA AS SOON AS

POSSIBLE. YOURS TRULY, DAVID T. SCHNEIDER, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES  
AD INTERIM. END TEXT.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** CASC, PFOR, IN, (HARCOS), (FLETCHER)  
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